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THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL OF
YOUTH FOR FOUR YEARS. A Review
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THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL OF YOUTH.

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International campaigns. Week for the Struggle Against

the danger of War and the Intervention in China.

In 1927 the correlations between England and the
U.S.S.R. were infallibly becoming aggravating, while the
situation in China grew still more and more serious. The
danger of an imperialist war acquired a sharp character.
The Executive Committee of the Communist International
of Youth resolved to conduct from March 10 to 18, 1927,
an international campaign and a week for the struggle
against the danger of war and the intervention in China
and the U.S.S.R.

This campaign was conducted under the following
slogans:

Against the imperialist policy of the United States
in South America.

League

2.

League for Combating Colonial Oppression.

At the Congress which took place in Brussels and consisted of representatives of various national-revolutionary organizations of colonial and semi-colonial countries - with the participation of delegates of the English and French Communist Union of Youth - was arranged a conference of the national-revolutionary youth organizations which participated in the Congress. The conference adopted a declaration which called upon all the revolutionary youth of the world to join the League. Having acquainted itself with the report and resolutions of the Brussels Congress, the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth proposed that the Executive Committee of the League recognize the decisions of the Youth Conference at the Brussels Congress as the decisions and documents of that Congress and incorporate into the Executive Committee of the League Comrade Singing (?) in the nature of a representative of the youth. With a view to mending and intensively developing the activity of the League among the youth of Europe, America and especially the East, it was proposed that the League

organize

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organize a Bureau of Youth assigning to it the rights of a section of the League. Within the task of the Bureau of Youth should fall the organization of juvenile sections of the League in individual places, increased propaganda of the ideas of the League among the youth of all countries, arrangement of a youth conference in countries and the study of the situation of colonial studentry and working youth, as well as the protection of its interests. It was proposed that the sections of the Communist International of Youth take an active participation in the organization of sections of the League in individual places.

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST UNION OF YOUTH IN INTER-PARTY

DISCUSSIONS.

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In the United States of North America our Communist Union of Youth actively participated in inter-party discussions; after some opposition it adopted the line of the Communist International and was one of the defenders of this line.

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IN THE STRUGGLE WITH IMPERIALIST WAR AND MILITARISM.

In the period after the IV World Congress of the Communist International of Youth the danger of a new world war became real. There occurred a whole series of petty imperialist wars against the revolutionarily arisen oppressed colonial and semi-colonial peoples - in Morocco and Syria, in China and Nicaragua, et cetera.

The increased danger of war placed a seal on the work of the Communist International of Youth and its sections. The work of the Communist International of Youth was conducted under the banner of a struggle with the danger of an imperialist war and militarism, under the banner of defense of the U.S.S.R. and the revolutionary movements in the colonies and semi-colonies.

Two years ago the American Communist Union of Youth began to conduct planned work in the army and navy.

The center of gravity was transferred to propaganda among the troops departing for China. Since the commencement of American intervention in Nicaragua, the Communist Union of Youth openly conducted a wide detrimental propaganda

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in the army. Its slogans in the struggle with the attack on Nicaragua declared:

Down with American imperialism.

Long live the uprising in Nicaragua.

Soldiers and sailors, refuse to shoot at the rebels in Nicaragua.

Soldiers, fraternize with the rebels.

As a result of this propaganda several soldiers from the American army crossed to the side of the rebels in Nicaragua and are now fighting with American imperialism in the ranks of Sandino. The Communist Union of Youth press joyfully greeted this news and openly invited the sailors and soldiers to follow this example.

Another large field of anti-military work is the OMTC* (bourgeois camp for pre-conscription training of the youth), toward which of late a large number of the working youth is aspiring. The Communist Union of Youth is conducting revolutionary propaganda in this camp. Frequently it was possible to enlist the fosterlings (?) of the OMTC* in the Communist Union of Youth.

American

* The Latin letters "CMTC" are given. Presumably "CMTC" (Citizens Military Training Camp) is meant.

6.

American class justice sentenced several comrades, including soldiers, for anti-military propaganda to many years of prison.

The perspective of revolutionary propaganda in the army is developing comparatively well. Considering that, according to statistics of the Ministry of War in 1927, 13,000 soldiers deserted the army, thanks to poor treatment and tiresome service, it is not difficult to comprehend that even in the American army there is favorable ground for revolutionary propaganda, decomposing the army.

The American Communist Union of Youth is still confronted with a serious work in the province of ideological crystallization and eradication of pacifist tendencies.

The Communist International of Youth and the Red International of Trade Unions.

Collaboration between the Communist International of Youth and the Red International of Trade Unions during the period under review assumed a more satisfactory character. In the beginning of 1927 there was created by the Communist International of Youth and the Red International of Trade

Unions

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Unions jointly a youth commission attached to the Red International of Trade Unions. To this commission were delegated three representatives of the Communist International of Youth and three representatives of the Red International of Trade Unions. This commission set itself the task of conducting work among the youth, which until this time found itself at a sufficiently low level. Reports were demanded concerning the work among the youth in the red trade unions of France and Czechoslovakia and at a whole series of meetings theses concerning the forms of work among the youth and concerning the organization of this work were worked out.

The IV Congress of the Red International of Trade Unions in March, 1928, placed for consideration as the second point of order of the day the question concerning "youth and the trade unions". A resolution was adopted on the question concerning work among the youth; in this resolution the role of the youth in the economic struggle is characterized and the question concerning the forms of organization of the youth is analyzed.

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In fact, there was worked out a program of struggle of the toiling youth which contained actual, international demands of the toiling youth. The Congress decided to appoint a special secretary for the youth who must work in closest contact with the Youth Section, which continues to exist; it was also decided to publish an information bulletin for the youth. Into the General Soviet of the Red International of Trade Unions were elected two representatives of the youth.

THE COMMUNIST UNION OF YOUTH AND NON-PARTY MASS ORGANIZATIONS.

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Workers' Sport Organizations.

The American Communist Union of Youth works in the Workers' Sport Alliance (Rabochem Sportivnom Soyuze), founded in 1926. Since 1926 this Alliance progressed numerically from 1,500 to 4,000 members. Two central sport campaigns took place in 1926 and 1927, one is also planned for 1928. The Communist Union of Youth is obliged to fight within the sport organization against national-chauvinistic influences of various national groups (chiefly, the Finnish).

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Other

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Other Forms of Mass Work.

The American Communist Union of Youth works in the youth sections of various national workers' clubs and mobilizes the youth for the support of the struggle of the working youth (the miners' strike, et cetera). Furthermore, the Communist Union of Youth is conducting certain work in student organizations. In the latter part of 1927 a Student Conference, consisting of 80 delegates, occurred; it carried out a resolution against militarism and the danger of war.

The South American Communist Union of Youth also works in clubs of the working youth and in student organizations. A whole row of Communist Unions of Youth - in the Balkan countries, in Mexico, et cetera - works in peasant youth organizations.

THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL OF YOUTH AND ELECTIONS.

In 1928 in various countries - France, Germany, Poland, Japan, Latvia - elections took place. In addition, in the same year primary elections are still pending in America and elections in Latvia and Finland, while in 1929, elections in England.

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The United States of North America.

Elections in North America will take place in July, but the Communist Union of Youth the first of March already issued a program of social legislation for the youth. The program contains a short introduction in which is set down the position of the Union with respect to the two large bourgeois parties - the Republican and the Democratic - and with respect to the petty bourgeois policies and leaders of the American Federation of Labor, who conduct a policy of assistance to the candidates of both capitalist parties, depending on the personal sympathies of the leaders. Further in the program of the Communist Union of Youth it is stated:

"The Communist Union of Youth calls upon the young workers to support the independent political campaign of the working class (single list of workers' candidates of the Labor Party) against the capitalist parties and to rally for the support of the following demands: 1) The youth demands elective right. Every youth and girl over 18 years of age should enjoy elective right. 2) Six-hour working day and five-day working week. 3) Abolition of child labor. 4) A minimum wage in the proportion of twenty dollars (at the present time the wages of young industrial workers in America are under fifteen dollars

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dollars a week, and this is by no means sufficient in order to live in conditions worthy of man). 5) Protection of the youth. 6) Annual month's vacation at the expense of the employer. 7) Defense of apprenticeship (apprenticeship does not appear as an important factor in American industry in general, but it is important in the building business, in the polygraphic industry and in several other smaller industries). Against the system of individual contracts with apprentices! For the increase of wages and for the shortening of the period of training. 8) For preparation for the technical trades (the existing preparation for the technical trades signifies partly a desire to replace training by means of apprenticeship, and partly is an attempt to prepare highly qualified technicians, experts and machinists). Training for the technical trades is utilized in order to unite a definite class of young workers with the interests of industry, at the same time giving them no industrial preparation. At the present time training for the technical trades either bears a commercial character (typewriting, stenography, accountancy) or, equally, that of manual training. We are against the present system of instruction for the technical trades, which appears to be nothing other than a deception. We are for the creation of factory-mill schools in enterprises

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enterprises after the pattern of the schools of the factory-mill apprenticeship in the U.S.S.R. All young workers from 15 to 18 years of age are obliged to attend these schools. The hours of instruction are compensated for as hours of work at an enterprise and are counted during working hours. In the course of time the number of hours of instruction are diminished. Factory schools must be found under the control of the trade unions, young workers attending these schools, and factory committees.

"In order to mobilize the youth for participation in independent political campaigns, the Union will support the organization of youth clubs attached to the Farmer-Labor Party and youth clubs attached to the Workers' Party wherever their sections exist."

THE ACTIVITY OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL OF YOUTH.

The activity of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth, as the directing organ of the international communist movement of the youth, consisting of representatives from
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the more important unions, was concentrated on the following:

- a) Bringing into effect the decisions of the Congresses, and especially of the IV Congress of the Communist International of Youth.
- b) International exchange of experience in all fields of work of the Communist Unions of Youth.
- c) Detailed study of the situation of the working youth in all countries and the rendering of support to the unions in the matter of the application of their tactics and activity to the concrete conditions of life and the struggle of the worker-peasant youth.
- d) Rendering of concrete assistance in the matter of the working out of the political line and in the practical activity of individual Communist Unions of Youth by means of taking advantage of the experience of other unions, by means of giving information at the expense of errors and mistakes and by means of a positive collaboration.
- e) Organization of international movements and campaigns.

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The entire activity of the Presidium was realized on the basis of an unreserved and strict carrying out of the political line of the Communist International and an unsparing struggle in the international, as well as in the national, scale with all errors and views deviating from this line.

The Trade Union-Economic Commission

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During this period the Trade Union Commission considered questions of trade union work in individual countries, namely: ... in America - at 2 (sessions).
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Information Section

The Information Section of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth was organized soon after the IV World Congress. Its task consisted of regular and systematic informing of the Executive Committee, and also the unions and newspapers. The section is made up of three sub-sections; 1) the archive of clippings, 2) the newspaper and journal archive and 3) the library.

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The Information Section regularly receives and scrutinizes information and communications of the Communist International, the Red International of Trade Unions, the Sport International, the Peasant International, the International Red Aid (MOPR) et cetera. A close contact is maintained with the Information Section of the Communist International.

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PLENUMS AND ENLARGED PLENUMS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

OF YOUTH

A great instance in the interval between world congresses is the plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth. Forty-six members comprise the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth. The majority of the members of the Executive Committee work in the unions represented by them. Plenary sessions of the Executive Committee occur, in fact, once in 6-8 months.

At

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At then there is introduced the balance of past work of the Presidium and the unions, and new tasks are formulated. Customarily the plenums of the Executive Committee are arranged immediately after the plenums of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. On certain occasions, especially in considering important questions, representatives of the more important unions are invited to the plenary sessions of the Executive Committee, in consequence of which from 10-15 delegates more than is customary participate at the plenum.

Since the time of the IV World Congress 5 plenary and enlarged plenary sessions of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth have occurred: the first in the beginning of April 1925, the second in March 1926, the third in November-December 1926, the fourth in June 1927, and the fifth in February-March 1928.

THE

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THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL OF YOUTH IN FIGURES

Dynamics of the Membership of the Communist International
of Youth and Its Sections¹⁾.

Legal Unions Regarding Which Definite Data Are Available

Communist Union of Youth	March 1925	March 1926	November 1926	June 1927	End of 1927	Middle of 1928
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North American	(?)4,000	1,085	1,712	1,900	1,950	2,480
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The Social Composition of Individual Communist Unions of
Youth.

Approximate Data in Percentage

Communist Union of Youth	Large Works and Facto- ries	Youth in Trades and Small Enter- prises	Agricul- tural Working Youth	Peasant Youth	Servants	Students and Others	Percen- tage of these Unem- ployed
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North America	50	2) 10	2	-	15	23	?
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1) In all cases where data for the corresponding period is not available, the last figures available are cited. In places where we do not know whether the Communist Union of Youth exists in general, a question mark appears.

2) Including the unemployed.

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Per Cent of Members in Factory Cells at the Beginning of 1928

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North America.....0.76

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Per Cent Organized in Trade Unions at the Beginning of 1927

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North America..... 29 per cent

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The Press of the Communist Unions of Youth in Capitalist

Name	Country	Circulation				Remarks
		1925	1926	1927	1928	

Monthly Organs

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"Young Worker"	America	4,000	4,000	6,000	7,000	Until 1927, a bi-monthly
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International Communist Child Movement

Organizational Situation

March 1926 May 1927 May 1928

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United States	2,500	3,000	4,000
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International Child Press

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January 1927 May 1928

United States "Young Comrade"	8,000 copies	6,500 copies
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19.

THE COMMUNIST UNION OF YOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA

The General Position of the Working Youth

During the elapsed period the number of working youth in industry was gradually increasing, so that at the present time it amounts to 11 million, i.e., one fourth of the entire working population. Its general economic position is extremely difficult and considerably worse than the position of adult workers, while the wages are even lower than the minimum cost of living, fixed by the government and bourgeois statistics.

In a political respect, a considerable part of the youth finds itself immediately under the influence of bourgeois youth organizations. Notwithstanding this, under the pressure of social forces the youth is beginning more and more to respond to events and is becoming an important factor in the life of the country. The chief revolutionizing factors are: the restriction of immigration, thanks to which the youth is becoming one of the principal sources of unqualified labor; the

uninterrupted

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uninterrupted crisis of farm economy, which sent forth a considerable number of the youth to the city market of labor; the enforced rationalization of American industry, commenced in 1922, which increased the percentage of working youth in industry and even lead to the formation of a number of branches of industry in which only the youth works; the sharp crisis in individual branches of industry, such as the coal and textile, during which the youth moved upon the first plan of struggle as the fighting vanguard of workers of these branches of industry, and, finally, the present day unemployment, also evoked by rationalization, which blocked up a portion of the working youth.

The Characteristics of the Past Four-Year Period

At the moment of the convocation of the IV Congress of the Communist International of Youth, the Communist Union of Youth of America already had adopted a general program of communist activity. During this period until the present time, may be noted the following four characteristic moments in the work and life of the Union:

a)

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a) The concretization of the resolutions concerning mass work by means of enhancing the participation of the Union in the everyday struggle of the working youth.

b) Organizational enforcement of the Union, thanks to the organization of better working apparatus, the liquidation of antiquated national unions, and also the drawing out of new directing forces.

c) The operation of our political activity by means of reaction and practical direction at all current political events.

d) Periodic fractionization and the resulting internal crisis, which appeared, principally, to be the rejection of an unwholesome position in the Party, served as a considerable hinderance on the road to further development of the Communist Union of Youth.

The Organizational Situation

During the elapsed period the organizational apparatus was enforced and improved, thanks to the liquidation of antiquated national unions and the

organization

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organization of coordinating district apparatus on a national scale. The Communist Union of Youth, as such, is still a small group, distinguished from the masses of working youth of America, although in the field of numerical strength certain successes were attained. From 1,700 members at the time of the IV Congress, the Communist Union of Youth at the present time has increased to 2,400 members. A considerable variation took place in the composition of the Union, evoked, chiefly, by the internal situation. The social composition changed for the worse. Until 1927, there existed a tendency to increase the proletarian elements in the Union. In 1927, they, not including students, constituted 77 per cent, at the present time they constitute only 64 per cent, which discloses a considerable increase of student elements in the Union. Likewise, the Communist Union of Youth has still insufficiently penetrated the chief branches of industry. A decided improvement is disclosed in the national composition of the Communist Union of Youth, numbering at the present time 66 per cent of native Americans in comparison with

approximately

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approximately twenty to twenty-five per cent in 1924.

In the field of reorganization the Communist Union of Youth acquired considerable and various experience, but has attained comparatively small practical results, with the exception of the above-mentioned liquidation of national unions and the acquired experience and knowledge. The organization of factory-works cells, as the indispensable preliminary condition for further final reorganization, still remains the chief task of the Union.

Economic and Trade Union Work

In the field of mass work the Communist Union of Youth attained greatest results in the economic work of the trade unions. The Communist Union of Youth participated in all large strikes and in some of them, as, for example, the strikes in Passaic and miners' strikes, it was extraordinarily active. During these strikes the Communist Union of Youth, thanks to its slogans, demands and activity, frequently won the confidence and direction

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of the working youth which participated in these strikes. Certain deficiencies in this work consisted of setting forth general demands instead of concrete, in masking the true face of the Communist Union of Youth and in deriving insufficient organizational results from the acquired influence.

The chief activity of the Communist Union of Youth during this four-year period was concentrated on the coal industry. In the beginning the Communist Union of Youth in this activity disclosed tendencies toward abstractness and journalism, afterwards gradually with the development of the crisis in the coal industry, and later during the strike, already lasting an entire year and leading to treachery of the trade union bureaucracy and, in fact, decomposition of the trade union, the Communist Union of Youth became an important factor in the struggle for bringing the strike to a victorious end and for the restoration of the miners' trade union without traitors to the working class. This activity manifested itself during the trade union elections and conferences of trade unions, and also during the strike

by

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by its struggle with mine owners, with traitors to the working class and with the armed forces of the State, as well as during the present campaign for the welfare and reorganization of the miners' trade union. Simultaneously, the Communist Union of Youth conducted work for the organization of the unorganized. In each district, and also on a national scale, members of the Communist Union of Youth were to be found at the head of the left wing during the struggle of the miners. In connection with this the Communist Union of Youth successfully organized conferences of youth organizations of the united front in defense of the miners.

One of the chief campaigns of the Communist Union of Youth, namely, the drawing of the youth into trade unions, was closely united with our strike activity. It has a special importance in view of the unwillingness of the existing trade unions to organize the working youth. In certain localities the Communist Union of Youth successfully reorganized new trade unions, chiefly, in the branches of industry where the youth predominates.

Experience

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Experience was also acquired in convoking youth conferences, only four of which have been convoked up to this time: three in the coal industry and one general conference.

Although work is being conducted at enterprises and a number of factory-works newspapers are issued, this work is still weak because of the insufficient activity on the part of each member of the Union.

Unemployment

The Communist Union of Youth quickly reacted to the increase in unemployment and frequently assumed the leadership of the struggle of the unemployed, although it permitted certain serious errors in the formulation of demands set forth.

Anti-Militarist Activity

The Union conducted a campaign for the struggle with "citizens' military training camps," both within these camps and outside. This popularized the Communist Union of Youth, as a fighter against imperialist war.

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In 1926/27 many errors were permitted during the carrying out of the united front tactics, chiefly, of a pacifist character. An error, expressing itself in the organization of the united front with the participation only of petty bourgeois and liberal groups, was acknowledged and to a considerable extent corrected. Previously, the activity of the Union was limited chiefly to general propaganda, recently concrete work was carried out in the anti-militarist field, such as, for instance, the demonstrations and distribution of literature among the marines and soldiers despatched to Nicaragua and China.

It is necessary to considerably improve and develop the weak beginnings of work among the armed forces.

Sport

Recognizing the important role of sports in America, as the instrument of the bourgeoisie, and also the absence of any workers' sport movement, the formation of the workers' sport union must be acknowledged as a positive fact.

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fact. However, this union is still too closed and does not include typically American sport organizations of the working youth. The extension and development of this organization is one of our chief tasks.

General Mass Work

Success may also be noted in the field of the formation and activization of the organization of young pioneers; the attempts to organize farmer-labor youth clubs for penetration into the agricultural youth; the commencement of a serious elective campaign with a special electoral platform, including a program of social legislation for the youth, and, finally, the organization of annual district and national schools for assets. (?).

Appraisalment of the Elapsed Period

Although during the elapsed period considerable progress has been made, it did not carry a permanent character, and successes were attained only in those cases when the efforts of all the comrades were applied.

In

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In the mass struggle of the working youth, confidence and leadership were won by individual members of the Communist Union of Youth and in an insufficient degree by the entire Communist Union of Youth, as an organization.

The Communist Union of Youth, as such, is still isolated from the masses of typically American youth, which is apparent from its small numerical strength, from its social and national composition and from the small percentage of members engaged in the basic branches of industry and in large enterprises.

Our work does not grasp a sufficient flexibility and breadth of the horizon, and also the proper attention to particulars and new methods applicable to America.

Organizationally the Communist Union of Youth is much weaker than in its general influence. The strengthening of this influence in organizational forms is a problem which until now it has been impossible to solve. The chief weakness of the Communist Union of Youth is in the absence of factory-works cells and in an insufficient development and training of native Americans for leadership, both on a local and district scale.

Within

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Within the ranks of the Communist Union of Youth may also be noted a definitely insufficient comprehension of the present danger of war. This leads to many errors, because of which some, as, for example, pacifism, have already been subject to condemnation on the part of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth.

Such important branches of work, as work among the negroes and in the colonies, struggle with the opponents, and also agrarian work, were found in full neglect, and only in the field of work among the negroes did the Union show certain activity, although very unsystematically and weakly.